

تنبيهات على أحكام تختص بالمؤمنات

Rulings Pertaining to Muslim Women

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Introduction

All praise be to Allaah who decreed and guided, and created the pairs, male and female, from a single drop. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allaah, alone without partners in worship. All praise be to Him firstly and lastly. I bear witness that Muhammad is his servant and messenger; he was raised to the heavens and shown the great Signs of his Lord. May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him, his family and companions, the virtuous, and the people of intellect.

The woman has been given a particular status in Islaam. Great importance is attached to her position, and the Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him used to give special guidance to women, and left his guidance for them in his speech at 'Arafaat. These points prove that it is compulsory to pay special attention to women at all times, and in particular today, when the Muslim woman has been singled out for attack, in order to deprive her of her nobility and status. It is therefore incumbent to warn women of these dangers and explain to them the path of success.

I hope this book will be a pointer to this path, as it contains some of the Islaamic laws specific to woman. The book is a small contribution; a small effort, and I

hope that Allaah makes it beneficial despite its smallness. The book is the first step on this path after which, it is hoped, greater and more expansive steps are taken to achieve what is better.

I have divided this work into the following sections:

1. Chapter One: General Laws
2. Chapter Two: Laws Pertaining To The Beautification Of The Body
3. Chapter Three: Laws Regarding Menstruation, False Menstruation And Lochia
4. Chapter Four: Laws Pertaining To Dressing And Hijaab
5. Chapter Five: Laws Pertaining To The Woman And Her Salaat
6. Chapter Six: Laws Pertaining To Women Regarding Funerals
7. Chapter Seven: Laws Pertaining To Fasting
8. Chapter Eight: Laws Regarding Hajj And Umra
9. Chapter Nine: Laws Regarding Marriage And Divorce
10. Chapter Ten: Laws That Protect The Honour Of The Woman And Her Chastity

Chapter 1

General Laws

1. The status of a woman before the age of Islaam

The period before Islaam is known as the *Jaahiliyyah* period (literally, the 'Period of Ignorance'), which refers to the culture of all the nations of the world generally, and in particular the culture of the Arabs. This was the period when mankind was in a state of an intermission of Prophethood, and the disappearance of the ways of guidance. As has been related in hadeeth, Allaah looked at the people, and abhorred them, both the Arabs and the non-Arabs among them, except for a few remnants of the People of the Book (the Jews and the Christians).

Women at this time generally lived oppressed lives, particularly in Arab society; the birth of a girl for example was an unwelcome event - to the point where they used to bury their daughters alive. Others left them to live oppressed and miserable lives. This was as Allaah said:

﴿ وَإِذَا بُشِّرَ أَحَدُهُم بِالْأُنْثَىٰ ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مُسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ ٥٨
يَتَوَارَىٰ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ مِنْ سُوءِ مَا بُشِّرَ بِهِ ۚ أَيُمْسِكُهُ عَلَىٰ هُونٍ أَمْ يَدُسُّهُ
فِي التُّرَابِ ۗ أَلَا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ ٥٩ ﴾

“And when news is brought to one of them of (the birth) of a female (child), his face becomes dark, and he is filled with inward grief. He hides himself from his people with shame, because of the bad news he has had! Shall he keep her with dishonour and contempt or bury her in the dust? Certainly evil is their decision.” [Al-Nahl: 58-59].

And Allaah the Most High said:

﴿ وَإِذَا الْمَوْءُودَةُ سُئِلَتْ بِأَيِّ ذَنْبٍ قُتِلَتْ ٨
٩ ﴾

“And when the female (infant) buried alive is questioned; for what crime she was killed”. [Al-Takwir: 8-9]

If the girl was spared the fate of being buried alive and was allowed to live, she lived an oppressed life. Only males used to inherit, and the woman did not receive a share of the inheritance of her relatives, no matter how rich they were, or how poor and needy she might herself be. In fact, she herself was regarded as her husband's property and was inherited along with the rest of his wealth upon his death!

The number of wives a man was allowed to have was not limited, so at times many women lived under one husband - without regard for the effect this would have on the women or the oppression, problems and pressures placed on the wives.

2. The status of women during the age of Islaam

When Islaam appeared, it removed this oppression of women and returned to them their proper status in Mankind. Allaah says:

﴿ يٰٓأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ ١٣ ﴾

‘O people! Indeed we created you from a male and a female.’ [Al-Hujurat: 13]

So Allaah has stated that the woman is an equal partner of the man in terms of reward and punishment for their actions. Allaah says:

﴿ مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهُ
حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُم بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ١٤ ﴾

“Whoever works righteousness, whether male or female, while he (or she) is true believer, verily to him We will give a good and pure life (in this world), and